

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): A process for preparing a polyurethane dispersion, which comprises, prior to dispersing, preparing the polyurethane in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to claim 15, comprising the steps of

I. preparing a polyurethane in the presence of N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone by reacting

- a) at least one polyfunctional isocyanate having 4 to 30 carbon atoms,
- b) diols of which
  - b1) 10 to 100 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b), have a molecular weight of from 500 to 5000 and
  - b2) 0 to 90 mol%, based on the total amount of diols (b), have a molecular weight of from 60 to 500 g/mol,
- c) optionally additional polyfunctional compounds, other than the diols (b), containing reactive groups which are alcoholic hydroxyl groups or primary or secondary amino groups and
- d) monomers other than the monomers a), b) and c), containing at least one isocyanate group or at least one isocyanato-reactive group, additionally carrying at least one hydrophilic group or one potentially hydrophilic group, whereby the polyurethane is rendered dispersible in water,

to form a polyurethane and

II. subsequently dispersing the polyurethane in water

III. with the optional addition of polyamines after or during step II.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to claim 16, wherein component d) is at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to claim 17, wherein component d) is at least one dihydroxyalkylcarboxylic acid.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to claim 17, wherein component d) is at least one  $\alpha,\alpha$ -bis(hydroxymethyl)carboxylic acid.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to claim 17, wherein component d) is dimethylolbutyric acid and/or dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to claim 17, wherein component d) is dimethylolpropionic acid.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to claim 15, wherein components d) comprises both nonionic hydrophilic and ionic hydrophilic groups.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to claim 15, wherein the polyurethane is prepared in the presence of at least one cesium salt.

Claim 24 (New): A method of using a polyurethane dispersion prepared according to claim 15 for coating or adhesively bonding wood, wood veneer, paper, paperboard, cardboard, textile, leather, nonwoven, plastics surfaces, glass, ceramic, mineral building materials, uncoated metals or coated metals.

Claim 25 (New): A method of using N-ethylpyrrolidone or N-cyclohexylpyrrolidone in preparing polyurethanes.